

## "Firecracker" has no regrets!

Written by Elizabeth Sollis, Executive Director's Office

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**St. George-** Shirley Owen loves public service. Years ago she earned notoriety as the first female to work for Salt Lake City Fire Department. She started in dispatch and then became an EMT. After a few years of fire fun she worked as a supervisor for Salt Lake City Parking Enforcement.



Owen and her husband then moved to St. George to care for her terminally ill father. She attended Southern Utah University and earned two bachelor degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Although she had dreamed of being a criminal psychologist, her internship with Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) changed her career path. "I fell in love with the agency mission and people here who were so committed to it," said Owen. "True story. First opening after graduation, I applied and have been here ever since; never looked back, no regrets!"

Owen has been with DCFS for eight years; the last four as a CPS Supervisor. Self-proclaimed "firecracker" and "overachiever", Owen does a great job leading and truly being part of her team. "This is the best team," proclaims Owen. "They really are - I love it." In regards to teaming, Owen feels it is essential for supervisors to be an active part of the team and take on cases when caseloads are high or overwhelming. "If you want people to follow and support you, you have to show them you're willing to get in the trenches with them." Owen's theory appears to work and work well - her staff thoroughly enjoy working with and for her.

Angelique Colemere and I had the privilege of meeting her team during a barbeque at Owen's home. Like their leader, they are great people! Always up for fun, we had them play a game in which they came up with a word, specific to a category, which started with the letter "S", in honor of Shirley. Their names, category and answers are below:

Tom Edmonds

Favorite Band: Simon & Garfunkel

Tara Rushton

Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake

Brook Triplett

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Occupation: Superhero

Steve Sullivan

Something You Wear: Smirk

Michelle Patterson

Vehicle: Sports Car

Sabrina Westwood

Reason for Being Late: Sometimes I'm a mommy?!?

Julie Willden

Found in Bathroom: Sports Illustrated

Lindsey Hodgen

Something You Shout: "Show me the money....Duane"

Wendy Bates

City: St. George

Shirley Owen

Game: Sorry